

A newsletter for alumni, friends, faculty & staff | February 2009

S.C. Extension Advisory Council elects first executive board member from SC State University

The consultative group for South Carolina’s largest outreach program elected Kevin Gadsden vice-chairman of the State Extension Advisory Council (SEAC). Gadsden, who represents SC State University’s 1890 Research & Extension Program, is the first council member from SC State to serve on the executive board.

The council advises South Carolina’s two land-grant institutions, Clemson University and SC State University, about the state’s outreach programs and services, recognized as Cooperative Extension. Extension staff and administrators from the universities select community leaders from across the state to serve on the advisory council.

“I look forward to working with Kevin as he serves as the vice-chairman of the State Extension Advisory Council. The Extension System values his leadership and his commitment to help Extension serve the educational needs of our clientele in a professional and efficient manner,” said Jesse Eargle, SEAC executive director.

In addition to providing guidance on the direction of the Extension Program, the council helps identifies problems in the community and aids in discovering solutions; advocates Extension to the public and elected officials; and helps identify funding opportunities.

Gadsden is a regional target marketing manager for Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated in Charleston, S.C. He earned a Bachelor of Science in organizational management from Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C.

Gadsden said he will work to facilitate the council’s on-going efforts to enhance the lives of South Carolinians.

“Members of the State Extension Advisory Council are working together to foster inclusiveness,” said Gadsden, who is serving his third term on the council. “We are one united force with an interest in bringing together the knowledge and resources of both universities to better serve the citizens of South Carolina.”

More than 100 colleges and universities comprise the nation’s Land-Grant System. The institutions in the system receive federal and state funding to accomplish the land-grant mission of improving the quality of life for all citizens through teaching, research and extension.

While there are various types of land-grant colleges and universities, Clemson is the state’s 1862 institution and SC State is the 1890 institution. The designation marks the year in which federal legislation was enacted to establish the universities.

“As the state’s two land-grant universities, SC State and Clemson offer a tremendous advantage to South Carolina,” said Delbert T. Foster, assistant administrator of Extension. “We help meet the diverse needs of South Carolinians by working together,” Foster continued.

The State Extension Advisory Council meets twice a year. Its next meeting will be held Feb. 3-4 at the Sandhill Research and Education Center in Northeast Columbia.

For more information on the State Extension Advisory Council, visit www.clemson.edu/SEAC.



Kevin Gadsden

2009 Scholarship Gala and Tribute

Saturday, February 21, 2009 • 7 p.m.



Focus on South Carolina State University is published for alumni, friends, faculty and staff of SC State. All news items may be reproduced with credit to **FOCUS** Information should be submitted to the Office of University Relations and Marketing, P.O. Box 8124, 300 College Street NE, Orangeburg, SC 29117, Crawford-Zimmerman, Room 262.

Dr. Jackie Epps
Interim Vice President
Institutional Advancement

Erica S. Prioleau
Director, University Relations and Marketing

Carl A'see
Project Manager/WSSB General Manager

Rolando Davis
Student Media Advisor/University Photographer

Antia Dawkins
Public Informations Specialist

Ashley Elliott
Assistant Director of Public Relations

Tameka Kenan
Assistant Director of Marketing

Andrea S. Milford-Williams
Office Manager

Kay Snider
Publications Manager



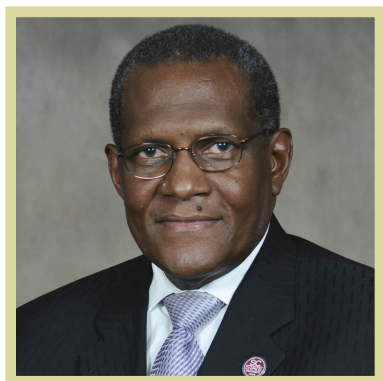
inside this issue

- o Graduate receives First Medical Physics Degree
- o 2008 MEAC Football Champions
- o Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Donates \$20,000



Students celebrated during the Fall 2008 Commencement Convocation, where Dr. George E. Cooper, SC State’s 10th president delivered the commencement address to more than 300 graduates.

A Message from the President



Dr. George E. Cooper

Greetings:

Becoming president only seven months ago, the experiences at South Carolina State University have been nothing less than rewarding.

The South Carolina State University Bulldog football team captured the MEAC Championship for the 2008 season. We congratulate the team and the coaches for this exceptional accomplishment. We would also like to thank the fans who supported the team at home and on the road. I ask that you continue to support our MEAC Champions and all of our teams as they represent the University in their respective sports.

We are also very pleased that construction is underway for the Lowman Hall and the new Hodge Hall Annex. We are working through the procurement details so that vertical construction will begin soon on the James E. Clyburn Transportation Center.

In keeping with premise of open communication, I have continued to visit clusters of Alumni chapters to discuss ways in which we can work collectively to assist our University and the students we serve. These visits have and continue to strengthen our communications network between the institution and some of our greatest stakeholders. It has allowed me the opportunity to share my vision and bring back to the campus ideas and concerns from Alumni. Alumni have demonstrated a renewed commitment to Alma Mater through increased financial contributions which support need-based student financial aid, growth of our endowment and assistance where other priorities cannot be met through our Education & General (E&G) budget resources.

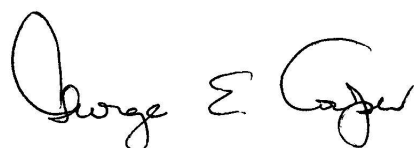
South Carolina State University, like many other institutions, continues to face challenges as we experience declining resources from the State. The University is coming together collectively to discuss and understand the challenges that we face. We are all affected by the declining economy; nonetheless, the institution must retain its ability to provide education to our students and a good quality learning environment. Therefore, we are prioritizing our resources to support priority programs and services going forward.

We are also responding to a "warning" notice from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). While under warning our courses, programs, and degrees are still accredited by SACS. The administration and board are working closely to address the following standards and will be submitting a progress report in September 2009:

- **Governing Boards**
- **Board/Administration Distinction**
- **Control of Intercollegiate Athletics**
- **Fund-Raising Activities**
- **Responsibility of Curriculum**

For more information on the warning, please visit: www.sacscoc.org and see link, *Accreditation Actions and Disclosure Statements*.

We have a record of distinguished and extraordinary accomplishments and this legacy will continue. Together, we can propel our University to even greater heights. I appreciate your unwavering support of South Carolina State University and the students we serve.



SC State Graduate First to Receive Medical Physics Degree

SC State graduate, Koressa Williams, was the first to receive a Bachelor of Science in Physics with an option in Medical Physics during the Fall Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008.

The keynote address was given by President George E. Cooper.

Medical Physics is a multi-disciplinary field that applies the principles of Physics to diagnose and treat illnesses through use of radiation and nuclear medicine, especially cancer. The Medical Physics option was instituted at the University in the fall of 2005 to respond to both the low enrollment in the Physics major, and for the under-representation of African-Americans and other minorities in the Medical Physics profession. The Physics curriculum at SC State was modified to include 18 semester hours of Medical Physics courses. Through this option, SC State is the first institution in South Carolina to offer this undergraduate degree option.

The 22-year-old native of Patterson, N.J., entered the Medical Physics option during its development in 2005.

"When I first entered in the Program it didn't feel like it was a reality," said Williams. "Currently there are approximately 20 Physics majors and we are all like a small family so I didn't feel as alone as I did in the beginning," she added.

During the fall semester, students visited medical radiation diagnosing and treatment centers which allowed them to learn about the operation of state-of-the-art equipment used for treatment purposes. Students also interacted with medical professionals from various hospitals and universities throughout the country during the Medical Physics Speakers' Forum, which is held weekly during the spring and fall semesters.

"The Medical Physics option is well structured and I

feel that I mostly benefited from the Speakers' Forum, which provided a lot of information and networking opportunities. Through that initiative I gained two internships with well known medical institutions," said Williams.

In addition to completing two internships at SC State, Williams interned at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, M.I. under the direction of Dr. Stephen Brown, Radiation Oncology Researcher and The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, S.C. under the direction of Dr. Donald Frey, Radiology professor.

"We're very proud of Koressa and her accomplishments," said Dr. Donald Walter, Physics program coordinator at SC State. "She is the first of many of our students who will leave this program prepared for graduate school or a job within the medical profession," added Walter.

After graduation, Williams plans to attend a college or university to pursue her master's degree and then continue to earn her doctorate degree in Medical Physics.

Koressa Williams

"As technology increases there are many things taking place in our environment that is worth exploring, such as the reasons why people develop massive brain tumors and the like. I think these things are worth investigating and I would like to stay in this field to find ways to help others," said Williams.

As she prepares for graduation, Williams reflects on her time spent at the University.

"I'm going to miss everyone at SC State but I'm excited about continuing my studies in this field. It's definitely a great option to pursue."

For more information about the Medical Physics option at SC State please contact, Dr. Shadia El-Teleaty, assistant professor of Physics at 803-536-8510 or selteleaty@scsu.edu.



SC State Speech Pathology and Audiology Students Win National Knowledge Bowl

The National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) held its first National College Knowledge Bowl at the 2008 annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) in Chicago, Illinois, Nov. 19-22.

The ASHA national convention is held annually and had over 13,000 attendees in Chicago this year. Speech-language pathology and audiology professionals and students attend the convention every year for professional development, organizational meetings, and to keep current with the latest research.

Similar to the popular television game show, Jeopardy, in the National College Knowledge Bowl, Speech Pathology and Audiology students from all over the country were asked

questions similar to those which appear on the National Examination in Speech Pathology and Audiology (an examination that every Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist must pass before they can receive ASHA certification to practice in the professions).

Five SC State Speech Pathology and Audiology students (two undergraduate and three graduate students) Nan Aycocock, Eddrina Frasier, Shemariah Farmer, Emily Morris, and Nancy Renee Smith, at first

were present just as observers of the event. When they realized, however, that there were no representatives from the South, Region 5, they decided to enter and participate in the competition at the last minute. Using the knowledge they obtained in the University's Speech Pathology and Audiology Program, they consistently scored exceptionally well throughout the competition.

When the final question appeared – "How many years has NSSLHA been in existence?" – our five students were overjoyed because they knew the answer when no one else did!

"We're all very proud that we learned enough at SC State to compete nationally with students from other universities in places like California and New York," said Morris, a senior undergraduate student. "We can

make it anywhere," Morris continued.

The students placed third out of ten national regions, and won a prize of \$500.

Dr. Gwendolyn D. Wilson, Department Chair and ASHA Vice President for Audiology Practice, said that she was proud to know that, "our students have the courage, confidence, and competence to participate and perform so well in a national competition."



SC State students (left to right) Shemariah Farmer (undergraduate), Eddrina Frasier (graduate), Nancy Renee Smith (graduate), Emily Morris (undergraduate), and Nan Aycocock (graduate) won the National Knowledge Bowl in Chicago, Illinois.

SC State University - 2008 MEAC Football Champions 11 Bulldogs Earn All-MEAC Honors; Ford, Harrison, Pough Get Major Accolades

After a 26-year absence, S.C. State returned to the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) playoffs after clinching the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship with a 32-0 win over Morgan State.

The Bulldogs, who last appeared in the playoffs in 1982, earned the league's automatic berth with the win, which lifted Coach Buddy Pough's team to a 9-2 mark on the season and a perfect 7-0 in the league. "It's just a great feeling," said Pough. "Can you imagine being so close for all the six years I've been here and we finally got it done."

SC State running back **Will Ford** was selected as the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Offensive Player of the Year and was joined on the All-MEAC by ten (10) teammates, including center **Raymond Harrison**, who was named Offensive Lineman of the Year, marking the third consecutive such honor for the Bulldogs.

Also, Coach of the Year honors went to Bulldog head coach **Buddy Pough**, who led the Bulldogs to their first playoff berth in 26 years. Under Pough's guidance, the Bulldogs finished the season with a 10-3 overall mark and clinched the MEAC title with an unblemished 8-0 conference record. SC State ranked in the top 10 of three FCS statistical categories including tackles for loss (4th), sacks allowed (6th), and scoring defense (9th).

Ford led the MEAC in rushing with 1,499 yards and was tied for third in the conference in scoring (78 points). He carried the ball 246 times for an average of 115.3 yards and accounted for 13 touchdowns. Ford, a junior from Travelers Rest, S.C., is just 1,009 yards away from becoming the MEAC's all-time leading rusher. The Preseason Player of the Year honoree, he received the Rookie of the Year award in 2006 and was recently named a finalist for the Walter Payton Award.

Other Bulldogs joining Ford and Harrison on the All-MEAC first team were offensive lineman **Johnny Culbreath**, tight end **Octavius Darby**, defensive lineman **Cedric Lloyd** and safety **Markee Hamlin**. Earning second-team accolades were linebacker **Marshall McFadden**, defensive lineman **Keyon Brooks**, offensive lineman **Nygel Pearson**, wide receiver **Oliver (Tre) Young** and linebacker **Tony White**.

Harrison was a key performer in one of the most dominating offensive attacks in the MEAC this season for SC State. The Bulldogs' third consecutive Lineman of the Year, Harrison helped the SCSU offense amass 4,972 yards of total offense including 2,651 yards on the ground. With Harrison at the lead, the Bulldogs posted the league's top rusher in running back Ford. Harrison earned Offensive Lineman of the Week honors twice this season.



SC State University 2008 MEAC Champions

"Live Your Dream" with SC State's Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at SC State offers a variety of free resources for those seeking to establish a small business or those currently operating a business.

Established in 1979, as an administrative unit within the College of Business and Applied Professional Sciences at SC State, the Small Business Development Center provides programs and services that foster economic growth and development to new and existing entrepreneurs. The Center is dedicated to the success of small businesses within its service area of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Colleton, Hampton and Orangeburg counties.

The SBDC's activities also implement a part of the University's mission to provide education, conduct research and provide service to the State of South Carolina.

"Our program is designed for anyone who has a desire to go into business for themselves or those who are currently operating existing businesses," said John Goodwin, regional director for the Small Business Development Center at SC State.

Each year more than 160 businesses benefit from services provided by the Small Business Development Center. Through specialized support, business owners receive assistance in areas that best suit their needs.

During the past year, the center has been a focal point for those interested in developing a small business however as economic challenges derive, Goodwin says they seek to move in a new direction.

"We find that there are a lot of existing businesses that need our assistance to stay afloat. We will begin conducting financial management workshops in the beginning of 2009, which will inform business owners how to maintain financial balance, which provides an alternative to bankruptcy," says Goodwin.

In addition to helping clients obtain adequate funding for business development, the SBDC offers training programs that cover an array of topics and workshops presented by top professionals in areas such as financial analysis and computer technology education & training.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Donates \$20,000 to assist SC State students

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), the new management and operations contractor for the Savannah River Site (SRS), in Aiken, S.C., recently presented a \$20,000 check to SC State University to assist with need based scholarships for students.

SRNS assumed its responsibilities for the Site in August. It is committed to safe and efficient operations and restoring and preserving the environmental integrity of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site.

"Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is providing solutions to help students achieve their education goal," said Dr. Jackie Epps, interim vice president for Institutional Advancement at SC State. "The current economic crises will place an enormous strain on our student's ability to meet the cost of tuition and board. These scholarship dollars will provide a safety net to ensure that deserving students have the financial support to achieve their educational goals," Epps continued.

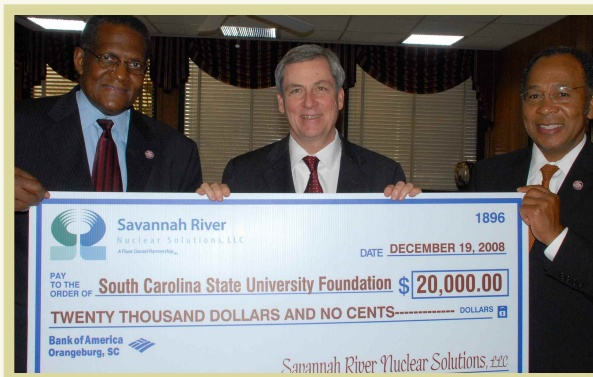
Although this is the first donation received from SRNS, SC State has received previous donations from the Savannah River Site for student scholarships. Both

organizations have also partnered on several initiatives to include SC State's

Savannah River Environmental Sciences Field Station, which provides internships for SC State students and recession proof career training for undergraduate students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Institutions (MIs) and other institutions.

"SC State has a long-standing relationship with our site and we want to expand that partnership," said Jerry Schneider, SRNS economic diversification manager. "In addition to providing financial assistance to students while in college, we would look forward to seeing SC State graduates on site, particular those in the sciences and engineering (nuclear) fields," added Schneider. SRNS was formed by Fluor Daniel as the senior partner

with Northrup Grumman and Honeywell. The funds donated from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, which are available during the spring 2009 school term, will be used to provide scholarship assistance to deserving SC State students.



Jerry Schneider (center), Savannah River Site Nuclear Solutions Economic Diversification Manager, presents a \$20,000 check to President George E. Cooper (left), and Dr. Jackie Epps, Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Additional SBDC services include:

- One-on-one Technical Assistance
- Assistance with the preparation of business plans
- Financial Management and Analysis
- Turnaround Management
- Assist clients with Procurement Opportunities
- Marketing
- Steps to Develop a Small Business
- Small Business Accounting
- Business Education and Training Seminars
- Financial Planning and Loan Packaging

- 8a application assistance (small business certification assistance)

"Once a client comes to us for service, we work with them for an unlimited length of time," said Goodwin. The key to reducing the amount of failures is to make individuals feel comfortable about the assistance they are receiving," he added.

For more information on the Small Business Development Center or upcoming seminars, please contact Pamela Free, SBDC business consultant at (803) 536-8445.

SC State Instructor serves as Keynote Speaker during International Technology Conference

SC State Mathematics and Computer Technology instructor, Dr. Stevo Bozinovski, served as keynote speaker during the 2008 Information Technology Revolutions conference in Venice Italy in on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008.

The 2008 Information Technology Revolutions conference, sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, explores new and exciting topics within the areas of computer science and information technology.

In November 2008, Bozinovski was invited to attend the conference and serve as keynote speaker. His topic, "Beyond Artificial Intelligence, toward Engineered Psychology," addressed the origin and future of artificial intelligence in robots and computers.

"I want to answer the question: What is the boundary of artificial intelligence and where it is going as a field," said Bozinovski.

Artificial intelligence, a prominent area within the field of computer science, is the use of computers to model the behavioral aspects of human reasoning and learning. Through his topic, Bozinovski seeks to explain the shift of artificial intelligence to artificial psychology, which includes complete emotions, motivations and personalities of robots.

"Thus far computers and robots have cognitive abilities such as understanding basic intelligence; however there is a shift to the complete psychology of robots that I hope to address," added Bozinovski.

As a pioneer in the study of artificial emotions and feelings, Bozinovski began his research on the topic more than 27 years ago when he wrote and published his first paper.

"My contribution to this study is that there are many ways to operate a robot. One approach is similar to the way humans are controlled which is neural networks, except in this case it's called artificial neural networks," said Bozinovski. "I saw an

interest in this area and decided to pursue it," added Bozinovski.

In 2006, SC State added the Neuroinformatics and Brain-Computer Interface course as an advance selection option for students within the Computer Science curriculum. The course covers information regarding processing systems in neural systems and includes brain-computer interface and brain-robot interface, which relates to Bozinovski's research.

Bozinovski obtained his degrees from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. His extended education and research includes work for IBM in Bayreuth, Germany, Adaptive Networks Group of the COINS department, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA, Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Japan, and Robocup team of Behavior Engineering Group of the German Institute for Information technologies (GMD) in Germany. His academic career as professor started at University Sts Cyril and Methodius, in Skopje, Macedonia.

Bozinovski's research work was devoted toward revolutionary approach in solving problems in science. His pioneering works in science include: solving delayed reinforcement learning problem for neural networks (1981), introducing concept of state evaluation, feelings and emotions in neural networks (1981), introducing metaphor on robotics and flexible manufacturing in genetics (1986), controlling robots using Electroencephalography (EEG), the measurement of electrical activity produced by the brain as recorded from electrodes placed on the scalp and Electrooculography (EOG), a technique for measuring the resting potential of the retina, signals (1988, 1989), introducing metaphor of operating systems in genetics (2000), and proposing explicit mathematical model that relates emotion, motivation, and behavior (2002).

Currently he is a Principal Investigator of a project on Neuroscience and Brain-Computer Interface funded by a million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).



Dr. Stevo Bozinovski

Join the Bulldog Pup Club Get Up for the Bulldogs... Everybody Get Up!

SC State alumni, supporters and friends, **WE** are asking you to **'GET UP'** and support your alma mater by joining the SC State Bulldog **'PUP CLUB.'**

For only **\$100.00**, **YOU** can make a significant difference in the lives of current SC State students. SC State has helped in defining who you are, what career path you have chosen, and your success, and now **WE** are asking you to help SC State.

Declining state resources have made SC State's drive for excellence even more challenging; therefore, every SC State alumni, supporter or friend who makes an annual gift accelerates our momentum to the top.

The Ultimate goal is to generate 2,000,000.00 to support the students and programs at SC State.

Please join us on the road to the top by making your \$100.00 gift today!

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at: (803) 536-8946.

The James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center Receives Third Fellowship

The James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center (JECUTC) at SC State recently received a third fellowship for students pursuing a master of science degree in Transportation.

The National Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management (NDCIEM) Transportation Fellowship was obtained through a grant received by the JECUTC through a joint partnership with Jackson State University's Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence.

"Though this partnership, the JECUTC will be able to provide three (3) \$7,000 fellowships annually for students seeking a Master's degree in Transportation at SC State," said Dr. Reinhardt Brown, interim executive director for the JECUTC.

The principle focus of the education component of the grant is to develop educational curricula focused on national disasters that will serve as a firm and enduring foundation for producing the next generation of highly

educated, creative and innovative researchers. Additionally the grant will help solve the existing and future Department of Homeland Security challenges relating to natural disasters in coastal areas.

Brown noted the important role that transportation plays during an evacuation caused by natural disasters.

"The orderly movement of people, goods, and services is vital to any successful evacuation procedure, therefore it was important to write a transportation component into this grant," stated Brown.

The center also offers the ***James E. Clyburn Transportation Fellowship Award*** and the ***Leroy Davis Transportation Fellowship Award***.

Prospective students with an undergraduate GPA of 2.85 or better are eligible to apply for the transportation fellowship.

Persons interested in applying for this fellowship should contact Jim Gordon, JECUTC education coordinator at (803) 536-8863.

SC State's Honors Program takes TOP HONORS

SC State Honors Program Scholars recently attended the National Association of African American Honors Program in Nashville, TN, and took "TOP HONORS" in various categories.

Honors Program scholar, Jared Lalmansingh, a sophomore, physics major was elected the ***2nd National Vice President***; Chantel Knowing, a junior, political science/pre-law major was elected as ***Miss NAAHP 2008-2009***; the Honors Program delegation won ***1st Place in the National Academic Competition Quiz Bowl***, and the Honors Program 'Debate Team' won ***2nd Place in the National Championship***.

In May 1990, an assembly of Honors Program directors from approximately 20 Historically and Predominantly Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs and PBCUs) met at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga. to discuss plans for a national organization of Honors Programs proposed to address the specific needs of honors education for African-American students. The group of directors agreed to establish an alliance that they called the National Association of African-American Honors Programs (NAAHP).

The NAAHP was developed out of the following purpose and objectives:

To develop, enhance and support honors programs in all HBCUs/PBCUs;

To stimulate and encourage community service and leadership;

To advocate the funding of honors programs by federal and state agencies as well as by private philanthropic foundations and organizations;

To facilitate the enrollment of African American students into graduate/professional schools;

To promote a curriculum that fosters a lifelong disciplined approach to knowledge and scholarship through inquiry and exploration;

To cultivate a knowledge and appreciation of African American culture as a mirror for understanding other great world cultures.

"These student scholars possess an amazing ability to cultivate their individual and collective talents and gifts to showcase their intellectual acumen, leadership, teamwork and social networking skills," said Dr. Harriet A. Roland, honors program director. "They have performed in an exemplary manner that should make our university family very proud to own these calibers of students," she continued.

